UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/826,938	04/06/2001	Atsushi Mizuno	862.C2193	3608

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EXAMINER
ZHEN, LI B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2194	

DATE MAILED: 07/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/826,938	MIZUNO, ATSUSHI
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Li B. Zhen	2194	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

- A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
  - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _05 May 2005_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-7,9,10 and 12-19_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-7,9,10 and 12-19_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   1 – 7, 9, 10 and 12 – 19 are pending in the current application.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this

application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action

has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on May 5,

2005 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

3.   Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are

moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5.   **Claims 1 – 7, 9, 10 and 12 – 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being**

unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,307,640 to Motegi [cited in the previous office

action] in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,348,972 to Taniguchi et al. [hereinafter

Taniguchi, cited in the previous office action] further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,711,677 to Wiegley [cited in PTO Form 892 dated 01/26/2005].

6.   As to claim 1, Motegi teaches a job processing system [computer-based network using a computer-based network print system; col. 2, lines 35 – 39] comprising first [host computer 113, Fig. 1; col. 2, lines 33 – 48] and second information processors [computers (101-102, and 103-104); col. 2, lines 33 – 48], and an output device [printer pairs (107-108, and 109-110) respectively connected to print servers 111 and 112; col. 2, lines 49 – 56], wherein said first information processor comprises:

job issuing means for transferring to said output device job data including print data [image data] and attribute information [job number, password] which is used to start outputting the print data [As part of step S2, the host computer sends the job number, password and the image data to the print server; col. 3, lines 38 – 57]; and

wherein said second information processor comprises:

job execution designating means for sending execution designation information including the notified attribute information to said output device [the user need not be physically present, but send control commands to the selected printer 107, identifying the password and job number, as if the user had entered this information on the printer's keypad; col. 3, lines 28 – 39], and

said output device comprises:

storage means for storing received job data [print server 111 receives data for example, a user password, a job number and an image data, from the host computer 113; col. 3, lines 15 – 19]; and

control means for outputting print data stored in said storage means if the

attribute information of the execution designation information corresponds to the

attribute information stored in said storage means [step S5 verifies that the inputted job

number and password match that provided by the host computer....If the response to

the inquiry in step S5 is affirmative, the process proceeds to step S6, where the

selected printer prints the image data; col. 4, lines 1 – 22].

7.   Motegi teaches that a user need not be physically present, but send control

commands to the selected printer 107, identifying the password and job number, as if

the user had entered this information on the printer's keypad [col. 3, lines 28 – 39]. This

clearly suggests that the user is notified of the password and job number, but Motegi

does not provide further details as to the notifying means.

However, Taniguchi teaches a job processing system [network print system, Fig.

1; col. 3, lines 1 – 8], a first information processor transferring to the output device job

data including print data and attribute information which is used to start outputting the

print data [user 1 enters the respective IDs and a common password of the users 2 and

3 from the input device such as a keyboard or so of the computer C1, and adds them to

"Job Ownership" and "Password" of the print job management data of the print job J1;

col. 8, lines 37 – 52], notifying the second information processor [computers C2 and C3;

col. 8, lines 64 – 67] of the attribute information for the job data transferred from the first

information processor to the output device [print job management program informs that

the ownership of print job J1 has been changed to the users 2 and 3...This notification

may be made by another method such as e-mail; col. 8, lines 57 – 67], a second

information processor designating execution designation information including the

attribute information to the output device [col. 9, lines 1 – 19], and the output device

outputting print data if the attribute information of the execution designation information

corresponds to the attribute information [col. 9, lines 20 – 35].

8.   It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

the invention was made to apply the teaching of the teaching of notifying the second

information processor of the attribute information for the job data transferred from the

first information processor to the output device as taught by Taniguchi to the invention

of Motegi because this enhances the secrecy function of printed information in a shared

printer, and further allows for designating plural people to obtain an a identical

document from optional printers in network [col. 2, lines 1 - 8 of Taniguchi].

9.   Motegi as modified by Taniguchi does not specifically teach identification

information for identifying the output device to which the job data has been transferred.

10.   However, Wiegley teaches secure printing [col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 20] and

notifying attribute information [session identifier; col. 4, lines 30 – 47] for job data and

identification information [printer 10 sends its public key as part of an authenticity

certificate; col. 4, lines 30 – 46] for identifying the output device to which the job data

has been transferred [other key in the pair, the private key, is kept secret and known

only to the printer; col. 4, lines 30 – 46] from a first information processor to a second

information processor [printer 10 sends an encryption public key and session identifier

38a to computer 12 in step 106; col. 4, lines 30 – 46].

11.   It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

the invention to apply the teaching of providing identification information for identifying

the output device to which the job data has been transferred as taught by Wiegley to the

invention of Motegi as modified because provides an encryption security system for

printer client/printer communications [col. 1, lines 60 – 65 of Wiegley].

12.   As to claim 2, Motegi as modified teaches the first information processor further

comprises notifying means which, when said job issuing means transfers the job data to

said output device, notifies a job issue to a user permitted to execute the job data [col.

8, lines 57 – 67 of Taniguchi].

13.   As to claim 3, Motegi as modified the second information processor further

comprises informing means which, when said notifying means notifies the job issue,

informs the user of the notification [col. 8, lines 54 – 67 of Taniguchi], and the job

execution designating means designates the execution designation information for the

job data when a predetermined operation is performed [col. 3, lines 28 – 39 of Motegi].

14.   As to claim 4, Motegi as modified teaches means for notifying the same

information as notified by said notifying means to another user to be given permission to

output the print data [users 2 and 3; col. 8, lines 37 – 52 of Taniguchi]; and means for

adding a user to be given permission to output to attributes with respect to said output

device [col. 8, lines 37 – 67 of Taniguchi].

15.   As to claim 5, Motegi as modified [col. 6, lines 49 – 67 of Taniguchi] teaches the attribute information issued by said job issuing means of said first information processor contains an upper-limit number [memory capacity, Step S603] of output times of job data, and said output device further comprises means for erasing a job when the upper-limit number of output times of the job is reached [generated print jobs are made invalid, Step S604].

16.   As to claim 6, Motegi as modified teaches the attribute information issued by said job issuing means of said first information processor contains information concerning the validity period of job data [Effective Term; col. 4, lines 10 – 17 of Taniguchi], and said output device further comprises means for erasing job data whose validity period has expired [col. 10, lines 9 – 18 of Taniguchi].

17.   As to claim 7, this is a method claim that corresponds to system claim 1; note the rejection to claim 1 above, which also meets this method claim.

18.   As to claim 9, this is rejected for similar reasons as claim 1 above. As to the additional limitations, Motegi as modified teaches converting information to be output [col. 11, lines 13 – 27 of Taniguchi], transferred from high-order processing, into data suited to an output device, and transferring to said output device job data [col. 3, lines 38 – 57 of Motegi].

19.   As to claim 10, this is rejected for the same reasons as claim 9 above.

20.   As to claim 12, Motegi as modified teaches a printing apparatus [col. 2, lines 49 –

56 of Motegi] connected to a network, comprising:

a first receiving unit adapted to receive print data and authentication information

for executing printing of the print data [print server 111 receives data for example, a

user password, a job number and an image data, from the host computer 113; col. 3,

lines 15 – 19 of Motegi] from a first client terminal [host computer 113 of Motegi] on said

network;

a storage unit adapted to store the received print data [col. 3, lines 15 – 19 of

Motegi];

a print job managing unit adapted to store and manage the authentication

information for the received print data [print job management program; col. 4, lines 21 –

43 of Taniguchi];

a second receiving unit adapted to receive, from a second client terminal on said

network to which the first client terminal has sent identification information for identifying

the printing apparatus [col. 4, lines 30 – 46 of Wiegley], authentication information which

is sent from the first client terminal [print job management program informs that the

ownership of print job J1 has been changed to the users 2 and 3...This notification may

be made by another method such as e-mail; col. 8, lines 57 – 67 of Taniguchi] to the

second client terminal [the user need not be physically present, but send control

commands to the selected printer 107, identifying the password and job number, as if

the user had entered this information on the printer's keypad; col. 3, lines 28 – 39 of

Motegi], the second client terminal sending the authentication information to the printing

apparatus which has been identified by the identifying information [col. 4, lines 47 – 58

of Wiegley]; and

a printing unit adapted to print, when the authentication information received by

said second receiving unit corresponds to the authentication information received by

said first receiving unit, the print data stored in the storage unit [col. 3, lines 15 – 19 of

Motegi] which corresponds to the authentication information [step S5 verifies that the

inputted job number and password match that provided by the host computer....If the

response to the inquiry in step S5 is affirmative, the process proceeds to step S6, where

the selected printer prints the image data; col. 4, lines 1 – 22 of Motegi].

21.   As to claim 13, Motegi as modified teaches said first receiving unit further

receives information for specifying said second client terminal [col. 3, lines 15 – 19 of

Motegi], wherein said print job managing unit means stores and manages information

for specifying said second client terminal together with the authentication information

[col. 8, lines 37 – 52 of Taniguchi], and said printing unit means performs printing when

a client as a transmission source of authentication information received by said second

receiving unit is said second client terminal stored and managed by said print job

managing unit [col. 4, lines 1 – 22 of Motegi and col. 9, lines 20 – 35 of Taniguchi].

22.   As to claim 14, Motegi as modified teaches said print job managing unit stores

information for specifying a plurality of second client terminals for one print data [print

job management program informs that the ownership of print job J1 has been changed

to the users 2 and 3; col. 8, lines 57 – 67 of Taniguchi].

23.   As to claim 15, Motegi as modified teaches a receiving unit adapted to receive

authentication information from all second client terminals for one print job [col. 3, lines

15 – 19 of Motegi], and erasing information concerning the print job from said memory

when printing is performed [the print job is completed, then the print job J1 is deleted

from the auxiliary memory D1 of the computer C1; col. 9, lines 34 – 50 of Taniguchi].

24.   As to claim 16, this is a method claim that corresponds to apparatus claim 12;

note the rejection to claim 12 above, which also meets this method claim. Additionally,

Motegi teaches storing received print data into a predetermined memory [col. 1, line 57

– col. 2, line 3].

25.   As to claims 17 - 19, these are method claims that correspond to apparatus

claims 13 - 15; note the rejections to claims 13 - 15 above, which also meet these

method claims.

Conclusion

26.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 5,956,471 to Ueda et al. teaches a technique which can protect

security of data until a regular user who transmits print data directs to start printing on

the side of a printing apparatus.

U.S. Patent No. 6,762,853 to Takagi et al. teaches a system for allowing an

operator of a remote terminal to check the arrangement and shapes of actual operation
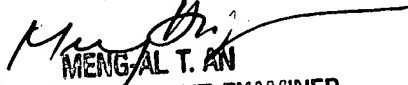
buttons.

27.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Li B. Zhen whose telephone number is (571) 272-3768.

The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri, 8:30am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Meng-Ai An can be reached on (571) 272-3756. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

                                            Li B. Zhen
                                            Examiner
                                            Art Unit 2194

lbz

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                                SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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